of public sector undertakings under Central Government which are functioning in Chhattisgarh State;

(b) the dates on which the meetings of plant level Advisory Committee of Public Sector IBP Company Limited, were held after the formation of Chhattisgarh State; and

(c) the number of subsidiary industries of I.B.P. Company Limited which have been set up and the names out of them given purchase-orders after the formation of Chhattisgarh State alongwith year-wise details of amount thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Major fire accidents

†2904. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that oil and gas producing industry is considered as a risky industry throughout the world;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) the number of mishaps taken place in the country from the year 2003 till the end of July, 2005 and the estimated extent of loss of lives and property as a result thereof;

(d) whether it is also a fact that special measures are needed to be taken for the safety in view of risks involved therein; and

(e) if so, the estimated annual amount likely to be spent on such measures?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir. Oil and gas producing industry is considered as hazardous industry throughout the world owing to the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

inherent nature of its products which are highly inflammable and susceptible to fire and explosion.

(b) Government accords the highest priority on Health & Safety and has set up a Safety Council assisted by the Oil Industry Safety Directorate (OISD) which formulates and coordinates the implementation of measures aimed at enhancing safety in the oil and gas industry in the country.

(c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) Government regulates the safety aspects of the oil & gas industry through various Acts *i.e.* Petroleum Act, Explosives Act, Oil Fields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948, etc. and various Rules framed under these Acts. Public sector undertakings (PSUs), as responsible PSUs, accord the highest priority to the safety of the lives of persons engaged in such operations as also the safety of assets and installations of companies. For this, oil PSUs are taking necessary measures. Regular safety audits, both internal and by external agencies, are conducted to identify gaps and the audit recommendations are implemented to enhance the safety system and safety management. Safety systems and procedures are also updated from time to time. Mock drills are carried out the personnel imparted safety training.

(e) Safety system and meausres are part of the systems design, and are provided at the time of commissioning of projects. Oil PSUs ensure safety right from the planning & design stage of a project to its construction, operation and maintenance. Hence, the estimated annual amount likely to be spent on such measures is not maintained separately, and depends on the requirements of projects.

Dividend of oil refineries

†2905. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.